

For Immediate Release:

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Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

San José Launches First Vietnamese Neighborhood Academy *Neighborhood Development Center brings information and resources directly to Vietnamese community*

San José – For the first time, Vietnamese residents in San José are finding resources and information about their neighborhoods delivered practically to their doorstep. The City of San José recently launched its first Vietnamese Language Neighborhood Academy program in the largely Vietnamese-populated Tully/Senter Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Area.

The Neighborhood Academy supplies residents with information on how to access City services, leadership training, and resources in safety and neighborhood development. Established in 1994, the Neighborhood Academy has been offered successfully in English and Spanish for almost ten years, and is now offered in Vietnamese as well.

As of March 30, members of the Vietnamese community now meet once a week at the Santee Action Center to learn about City and community-based services, how to access the services, and how to become involved in the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative efforts in their neighborhood.

“This is a wonderful program,” said Tro Nguyen, Vietnamese Neighborhood Academy participant. “I’m sure people in my community will enjoy it.”

Attendees of the first meeting received an orientation on the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, NDC and the Santee Action Center. Future training includes a fire station tour, a beginning computer class and a basic Internet class. Computer classes are designed to introduce residents to new methods of communication and technology. As part of successful community organizing, participants are set up with an e-mail account. The account enhances their communication network and use of the Internet to research and identify resources for their neighborhood development.

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The Neighborhood Academy is a program of the City's Neighborhood Development Center (NDC), through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services. While the NDC is a resource for residents to mobilize and organize their neighborhoods, the Neighborhood Academy goes a step further by bringing resources, information and training directly out to neighborhood community centers.

The NDC Vietnamese Academy takes place each Tuesday at the Santee Action Center, 1313 Audubon Drive (corner of Santee and McQuesten Drive), San José, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the NDC Vietnamese Neighborhood Academy, contact Hung Nguyen at (408) 277-2982.

For information on the NDC, or the English or Spanish Neighborhood Academy, please call (408) 392-6771.

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